

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

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TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, PINS, PINT, PORO, EAID, EFIN

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: 1976 REPORTING REQUIREMENT

REF: (A) STATE 045319, (B) 75 WELLINGTON A-015

1. AIRGRAM REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEW ZEALAND BEING
POUCHED. REGRET POUCH SCHEDULES MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE INSURE
RECEIPT IN WASHINGTON PRIOR MARCH 15. MAJOR POINTS
SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. IMPORTANT ORIGINARY LEGAL GUARANTEES - NEW ZEALAND JUSTICE
FOUNDED ON BRITISH LEGAL SYSTEM, INCLUDES NZFWEH
SAFEGUARDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. COURT DECISIONS CAN
BE, AND ARE, APPEALED AT VARIOUS LEVELS UP TO PRIVY COUNCIL.
ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CAN RESULT IN
PROSECUTION AND ARE ALSO SUBJECT TO APPEAL TO OMBUDSMAN
WHO HAS BROAD INVESTIGATORY POWERS AS WELL AS POWER TO
RECOMMEND REMEDIAL ACTION. PUBLIC SAFETY CONSERVATION ACT
PROVIDES FOR DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY, BUT
DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR SUSPENSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. ADHERENCE TO UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS - GNZ SCRUPULOUSLY ADHERES TO UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO
INSTANCES OF INFRINGEMENTS OF RIGHTS

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OF OPINION, SPEECH OR ASSEMBLY.

4. CONDONING OR ENCOURAGING VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS -
THE GNZ NEITHER CONDONES NOR ENCOURAGES VIOLATIONS OF
HUMAN RIGHTS BY ITS OFFICIALS. ANYONE INVOLVED IN SUCH
A VIOLATION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO ARREST AND PROSECUTION.

5. RELEVANT RECENT REPORTS - THE EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO
RELEVANT REPORTS BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON
VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEW ZEALAND.

6. DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER STEPS TAKEN - NONE REQUIRED.
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